

PRESIDENTIAL TRIPS

DRAWER 10

EXECUTIVE ROUTINE

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Abraham Lincoln's Executive Routine

Presidential Trips

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

RECALLS LINCOLN'S SMILE AND TWINKLE OF HIS EYES

East Lansdowne Woman Was Only 8
When She Met Him

Mrs. Matilda Stevenson, 80, of 133 Penn. boulevard, East Lansdowne, recalls shaking hands with Abraham Lincoln when she was 8.

The occasion was the Sanitary Fair held in this city near Logan Square in 1861, Mrs. Stevenson said.

"I attended the fair with other school children, and we all shook hands with the President," said Mrs. Stevenson, who at that time lived on Filbert st. above 16th, and was then Matilda Brooks.

"Mrs. Lincoln was there, too," said Mrs. Stevenson. "She wore a black silk brocade dress. President Lincoln's smile was something to remember. His whole face lighted up and his eyes twinkled."

Lincoln's birthday also brings recollections of the fears of Philadelphians at the time of the Battle of Gettysburg, when Southern troops invaded Northern territory, Mrs. Stevenson added.

She lives with her son, Harry R. Stevenson.

Mrs. Sophia Pearson, 83, who lives at 304 Cambria st., with her granddaughter, Mrs. Sophia Tomlin, lived in Washington when she was a girl and saw Lincoln several times there.

"He sure was a grand man," she said. "He certainly was. He patted my head several times. I used to see him when I went to visit my father, who was assistant engineer on the gunboat Valley City."

Lincoln Visited Trenton 90 Years Ago

Called At State House At Time of National Disunity

The nation today is observing the birthday of Abraham Lincoln. On February 21, 90 years will have passed since Abraham Lincoln visited Trenton. He was President-elect at the time and was on his way from New York to Washington for his inauguration.

The full fury of the Civil War was about to break. The supply ship "Star of the West" had been fired upon in Charleston harbor. Federal forts and Navy yards were being seized. Plans were underway to level Fort Sumter.

Against this background of disunity, Lincoln appeared at the State House and addressed the Senate. To an extent his remarks were a forecast of his immortal Gettysburg speech which was to come later. What he said at Gettysburg has become familiar to generations of school children. His Trenton address is not as well known. But it is a classic example of his ability to express himself succinctly in a few words.

"I cannot but remember the place New Jersey holds in the early history of our country,"

he said. "I remember that in the Revolutionary struggle none had more of its battlefields. I remember reading in my youth a small book 'The Life of Washington'—and of all his struggles, none fixed itself on my mind so indelibly as the crossing of the Delaware, preceding the Battle of Trenton.

"I remember these great struggles were made for some object. I am exceedingly anxious that the object they fought for—liberty, and the Union and Constitution they formed, shall be perpetuated. I shall be most happy if I may be a chosen instrument in effecting their perpetuity."

State Conservation Commissioner Erdman cited the speech today as worthwhile reading in marking the birthday of Lincoln. Today is the 142d anniversary.

